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The Tariff in its Relation to Agriculture.

SPEECH OF

HON. JEREMIAH M. RUSK,

OF WISCONSIN,

In the House of Representatives,

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1876,

On the Tariff in its Relation to Agriculture.

Mr. RUSK. Mr. Speaker, the agricultural interests of a nation exceed in importance those of every other industry. Commerce, manufactures, mining, and fisheries are relatively invaluable; but it is upon the products of its soil that a nation depends for the basis of its prosperity. Every aid extended by legislation to this department affords indirect assistance to all the other industries. This fact has ever been kept prominently in view by Republican statesmen. The journals of Congress during the period the Republican party has been in power bear testimony to the fact that encouragement to agriculture has been one of the fundamental principles of the party. This is seen in the passage of the homestead laws, the encouragement given to the construction of railroads through distant districts to enable agricultural products to reach paying markets, the development of the Agricultural Department of the Government, and the protection afforded to agriculture by the tariff. Under these favoring encouragements the number of acres in furrows has increased from 407,212,538 in 1860 to 407,735,041 in 1870, and this, too, against the check occasioned by the Democratic rebellion and exhaustive war. The total agricultural product for 1870 as shown by the census amounted to the enormous value of $2,447,538,658. These figures tell the importance of our agricultural industries and demonstrate the wisdom of the Republican policy in fostering that important interest. The customs tariff, against which the advocates of free trade have directed the most persistent opposition, has no interest more directly in view than that of agriculture. The products of the soil are as zealously protected against undue foreign importations as those of the factory. The following is the present scale of duties imposed on imported agricultural products:

Animals, 20 per cent.; bacon, 2 cents per pound; barley, 15 cents per bushel; beans, 10 per cent.; beef, 1 cent per pound; butter, 4 cents per pound; cheese, 4 cents per pound; corn, 10 cents per bushel; corn-meal, 10 per cent.; fruit, green, 10 per cent.; hops, 5 cents per pound; lard, 2 cents per pound; linseed, 20 cents per bushel; mutton, 20 per cent.; milk, 10 per cent.; oatmeal, ½ cent per pound: oats, 20 per cent.; pease, 10 cents per bushel; pease, for seed, 20 per cent.; pork, 1 cent per pound; potatoes, 15 cents per bushel; poultry, 10 per cent.; rice, cleaned, 2½ cents per pound; rice, uncleaned, 2 cents per pound; rye, 15 cents per bushel; rye flour, 10 per cent.; sausages, 35 per cent.; tallow, 1 cent per pound; tomatoes, 10 per cent.; tow, of hemp or flax, $10 per ton; vegetables, not otherwise provided for, 10 per cent.; wheat, 20 cents per bushel; wool, 25 to 50 per cent.; yarns, 20 to 40 per cent.

Under these duties foreign importations of agricultural products are kept within reasonable bounds; our own farmers are protected and the product of their labor is largely increased. At the same time the annual export of American agricultural products has more than doubled under the operations of the protective tariffs of the last fifteen years, and amounted in value in 1874 to the enormous sum of $499,383,672. The following are the exports of the last two years:

Export of agricultural products, fiscal years 1874 *and* 1875.

Articles.	1874.	1875.
BREADSTUFFS.		
Barley	$2'0,738	$61,408
Bread and Biscuit	676 197	610 092
Indian corn	24.769,951	24,456.937
Indian corn-meal	1,529,3[illegible]9	1,290,533
Oats	383,762	290,537
Rye	1,568,362	204 590
Rye flour	3[illegible],313	54,964
Wheat	101,421,459	59.607,863
Wheat flour	29.258,094	23,712.410
Other small grains and pulse	670,146	804.193
Maizena, farina, &c	322,443	364,708
Total	161,198,864	111,458.365
PROVISIONS.		
Bacon and Hams	33,383,[illegible]08	28,612,613
Beef	2.956,676	4.197,956
Butter	1,092,381	1,506,99[illegible]
Cheese	11,898.995	13,659.603
Condensed milk	79,0 8	123,565
Eggs	5,239	8,743
Lard	19,3[illegible]8 019	22,900 522
Meats, preserved	848.246	735,112
Pickles and sauces	20,784	18.865
Pork	5,808.712	5,671,495
Onions	52 057	51.259
Potatoes	471.332	522.182
Other vegetables	109,682	137.336
Vegetables, prepared or preserved	46.396	32,059
Total	76,081,445	78,178,336
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Cotton	211.223.587	190,638,625
Farm animals	3,310 388	2,672.505
Fruits	994,162	1,634,003
Hay	394.056	429,598
Hair	111 872	110,225
Hemp	8,901	21,856
Hides	2,560,382	4,729 725
Hops	27,973	1,28[illegible].501
Oil-cake	4,099.369	5 138.300
Rice	27.075	19,831
Seed	738,914	1,290,015
Tallow	8,135,320	5,692,203
Tobacco	30,399,181	25,241,549
Wool	72.169	62,754
Total	262.103.333	238,967.690
RECAPITULATION.		
Breadstuffs	161,198,894	111,458.365
Provisions	76,081.445	78,178,336
Miscellaneous	262,103,333	238,967.690
Grand total	499,383,672	428,604,391

These figures show the extent of our agricultural exports, the importance of which may be inferred when it is considered that each million of dollars' worth of products of the soil exported causes the retention of a million dollars in gold at home. The decrease in the exports of 1875, as compared with those of 1874, is owing mainly to a falling off in the export of wheat during the latter year. The export of that article in 1874 was largely above the average, and made a corresponding increase in the aggregate exports. But the average export of agricultural products has not in recent years varied far from $500,000,000 per annum, and under the present protective policy will continue to increase in the future.

Not a few of the sophistries of the free-trade fraternity are projected and industriously published with a view of deceiving our farmers. It is asserted that a protective tariff increases the cost of manufactures in iron, clothing, agricultural implements, and other commodities required by farmers, and at the same time reduces the prices of agricultural products. These statements are at variance with the facts. Experience shows with unerring certainty that in nearly every case a protective tariff tends to produce directly opposite results; that under its operations farmers receive better prices for their products and pay less for goods they purchase. This statement is not made at a venture. It is susceptible of proof. Take for illustration fabrics for clothing and compare prices in 1857, under partial free trade, with those of 1875, under a protective tariff.

The following were the current retail prices in the principal cities and communities in the West in each year named. The list was prepared by D. H. Mason, Esq., associate editor of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, and may be accepted as substantially correct:

Statement showing the current retail prices of fabrics for clothing in 1857 *and* 1875.

Articles.	1857.	1875.
Calicoes, prints, per yard	$0 12½	$0 08
Delaines, per yard	25	15
Alpacas, common, per yard	75	35
Alpacas, finer quality, per yard	1 00	40
Alpacas, finest quality, per yard	1 25	45
Woolen cloth, (shoddy in 1857,) good now, per yard	1 00	60
Woolen cloth, better quality, (shoddy in 1857,) good now, per yard	1 25	75
Woolen cloth, best quality, per yard	1 50	1 20
Shawls, each	12 00	8 00
Cotton print-cloth, per yard	08	04½
Raw cotton, per pound	13	15
Spool silk, 100 yards, per doz.	1 25	1 25
Skein silk, per ounce	7 50	7 00
Knit undershirts, each	1 25	50
Knit drawers, each	1 25	50

It will be observed that there is one article of raw material included—cotton—and that cost more in 1875 than in 1857, incidentally showing that the cotton farmer received a better price for his product under a protective tariff than he did under partial free trade. All the other articles, with one exception, are materially lower under a high than under a low rate of duties. In many cases the reduction is more than one-half,

and so of other goods; nearly all kinds of flannel goods range from 20 to 30 per cent. less in price now than they did in 1857. Carpets of our own manufacture are lower now than ever before, on a gold basis: and so also are standard doeskins, satinets, tweeds, and cassimeres, as has been demonstrated repeatedly by a comparison of present and former prices in the best establishments in the cities of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

Again, take the article of agricultural implements. Every intelligent farmer knows that he can buy to better advantage now than he could under the low tariffs of former years, while his implements have been multiplied in variety and improved in quality. The Chicago *Evening Journal*, November 5, 1875, stated that in a recent interview with the manager of the largest manufactory in the Northwest, that of Messrs. Furst & Bradley, he said:

It is impossible to compare the price of plows in 1857, 1858, 1859, and 1860 with the price during the past four years. There is no more resemblance between a plow of those years and now than there is between daylight and darkness. A plow such as we sell now would then have cost 100 per cent. more to manufacture than it costs now with such facilities as we then had. As a general rule, the prices of agricultural implements are nearly the same as before the war, but the goods now sold are worth 100 per cent. more. They are of better quality, more convenient, will last longer, are better adapted to the wants of the farm, and are in every respect cheaper than the goods sold before the war; but a mere comparison of our price catalogues for those years with those of the past four years would be unfair, for they indicate no change in quality. We have been buying stock at a continual decline in price for several years past, but the improvements which have been made each year more than offset this decline. We are continually putting more work and better work upon our implements.

One of the partners confirmed this statement, and added:

"I make the knock-down argument that we will take such farm produce as we consume at the prices which prevailed before the war and sell goods at ante-war prices. Any farmer who wants implements for his own use can come here any day and get them on these terms." When the improved quality of the implements is considered this offer, by a responsible party, is effectually conclusive as to the relative value of farm produce and agricultural implements.

Again, take the articles of iron and steel, which enter largely, directly and indirectly, into agricultural economy in the manufacture of implements and in building railways for transportation. In 1854, under a low tariff, the price of pig iron was $37.50 per ton in gold: on the 1st day of January, 1876, it was quoted in our principal markets at $23 per ton in currency.

In the manufacture of Bessemer steel rails, we have the following results. The quotation is from the report of the American Iron and Steel Association for 1871, and it forcibly shows the advantage of a tariff that enables our manufacturers to open successfully new industries:

In 1864, just before the completion of the first Bessemer steel works in this country, the price of English steel rails in New York and Philadelphia was $162 in gold. In 1865 two works were in operation here, and foreign rails were lowered to $120. Two years later, in 1867, a third works started, and two or three new companies were organized to further extend the manufacture, and foreign rails fell to $110, gold, per ton. In 1869 the capacity of our works was equal to the American demand, nearly $5,000,000 had been invested in the business, and foreign rails were put down to $80 gold, per ton. At that price they could not be made here, and the business was threatened with destruction. Ninety-five intelligent consumers of steel rails, alarmed at the prospect of being placed at the mercy of foreign makers, appealed to Congress to save our manufacturers by increasing the duty on imported rails. This was done; our works responded with renewed vigor to the increasing home demand; the price rose to a point at which a moderate profit could be made, (about $105 per ton,) and has since fluctuated but little. There can scarcely be a doubt that, had Congress not acted promptly in the premises, our works would have been closed, the capital invested in them sunk, their skilled labor driven into some other occupation, and the business so disorganized that, before resumption of operations could have taken place, American consumers would have suffered as severely as in the two instances previously given.

Other Bessemer works have since been erected and the price of steel rails has been further reduced to $75 per ton currency, or $66 in gold, "a lower price," says Wharton, in his National Self-Protection, published in 1875, "than that of iron rails two years ago, but little higher than steel rails could be landed here now from England duty free, and doubtless $25 per ton lower than they could be had duty free if our works had not by protection been called into existence.

Cheap rails cheapen the cost of railroads and lessen the charges for the transportation of wheat, corn, potatoes, cattle, and other agricultural products, and thus benefits the farmer.

Take another illustration of the benefits of protection in reducing the cost of articles used by farmers; and what is said of axes applies equally to edge tools generally:

The manufacture of axes and other edge-tools was commenced at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1826, by the brothers Collins, who were the first to supply the markets of this country with cast-steel axes ready ground for use. By the tariff of 1828 a prohibitive duty of 35 per cent. was levied upon imported axes. Under this protection the Collins Company introduced labor-saving machinery, much of which was invented, patented, and constructed by themselves. Ultimately their axes altogether superseded the foreign article, on account of superior quality and cheapness. In 1836 foreign and home-made axes were selling side by side in the American market at $5 to $16 per dozen, at which time foreign producers, finding they could make no money

at those rates and that our establishments could not be broken down, withdrew from the competition, abandoning the entire market to our own manufacturers. Then home rivalry and improved methods continued the decline of prices. Axes were selling in 1838 at $13 to $15.25 per dozen; in 1843 at $11 to $12; and in 1849 at $8 to $10.

These quotations are based upon the finance report of the United States for 1849, and they show a constant decline of prices, even after the pressure of foreign competition had been withdrawn. Now we are exporters of axes, and are wresting from the English one market after another. Said the Sheffield *Telegraph*, only a few weeks ago: "The steel of an American axe is so superior to that of an imported axe that no pioneer who understands his business will ever carry any other with him into the wilds." Such are the effects of protective duties and the benefits of a high tariff to farmers.

Illustrations might be multiplied, but enough has been presented to show conclusively that farmers pay less for their supplies under a protective tariff than they paid formerly under partial free trade.

On the other hand, the products of their own labor bring better prices now than they did in former years when the tariff was low. In illustration of this, the following tables, compiled from a recent reliable work by D. H. Mason, esq., entitled "How Western Farmers are Benefited by Protection," are presented. We shall, for the sake of brevity, confine the illustrations to the staple articles of wheat, flour, corn, and potatoes, though similar results could be shown in reference to all other agricultural products. The figures are derived from the official Commerce and Navigation Reports of the United States Government, and show the quantities exported each year named, together with the aggregate value and the prices at the port of departure.

Exports of wheat.

EXPORTS UNDER PARTIAL FREE TRADE.

Fiscal years.	Bushels.	Values.	Average price per bushel.
1849	1,527,534	$1,756,848	$1.15012
1850	608 661	643,745	1.05764
1851	1,026,725	1,025,732	.99903
1852	2,694 540	2,555,209	.94829
1853	3,890,141	4,354,403	1.11934
1854	8,036 665	12,420,172	1.54545
1855	798,884	1,329,246	1.66388
1856	8,154,877	15,115,661	1.85357
1857	14,570,331	22,240,857	1.52645
1858	8,926,196	9,061,504	1.01516
1859	3,002,016	2,849,192	.94909
1860	4,155 153	4,076,704	.98112
1861	31,238,057	38,313,624	1.22650
Totals	88,629,780	115,742,897	.....
Annual average	6,817,676	8,903,300	1.30591

Exports of wheat—CONTINUED.

EXPORTS UNDER OUR PROTECTIVE SYSTEM.

Fiscal years.	Bushels.	Values.	Average price per bushel.
1862	37,289,572	$42,573,295	$1.14169
1863	36.160,414	46,754,195	1.29296
1864	23,681,712	31,432,133	1.32727
1865	9,937,152	19,397,197	1.95200
1866	5,579.103	7,842,749	1.40574
1867	6,146,411	7,822,555	1.27270
1868	15,940,899	30,247.632	1.89748
1869	17.557,836	24,383,259	1.38874
1870	36,584,115	47,171,229	1.28939
1871	34,304,906	45,143,424	1.31595
1872	26,423,080	38,915,060	1.47277
1873	39,204,285	51,452.254	1.31241
1874	71,039,928	101.421,459	1.42767
Totals	359,849.413	494.556,441	.....
Annual average	27,680,724	38,042,803	1.37.434

For greater accuracy in the average price per bushel the fraction of a cent is extended to three decimals.

The increase in quantity and in value during the last over the first series of years is significantly conclusive in favor of the protective over the partial free-trade system.

Exports of wheat flour.

THIRTEEN YEARS UNDER PARTIAL FREE TRADE.

Fiscal years.	Barrels.	Values.	Average price per barrel.
1849	2,108.013	$11,280,582	$5.35129
1850	1,385,448	7,098,570	5.12366
1851	2,202,335	10,524,331	4.77871
1852	2,799,339	11,869.143	4.23998
1853	2,920,918	14,783.394	5.06122
1854	4,022,386	27,701,444	6.88682
1855	1,204,540	10,896,908	9.04653
1856	3,510,626	29,275,148	8.33901
1857	3,712,053	25,882,316	6.97253
1858	3,512,169	19,328,884	5.50340
1859	2,431,824	14,433,591	5.93529
1860	2,611,596	15,448 507	5.91535
1861	4,323,756	24,645,849	5.70010
Totals	36,745,003	223,168,667	.....
Annual average	2.826.539	17,166.821	6.07.344

THIRTEEN YEARS UNDER OUR PROTECTIVE SYSTEM.

Fiscal years.	Barrels.	Values.	Average price per barrel.
1862	4,882,033	$27,534,295	$5.63990
1863	4,390,055	28,366,069	6.46144
1864	3,557,347	25,588,249	7.19310
1865	2,604,542	27,222,031	10.45175
1866	2,183,050	18,396,686	8.42706
1867	1,300,106	12,803,775	9.84825
1868	2,076,423	20,887,798	10,05950
1869	2,431,873	18,813,865	7.73637
1870	3,463,333	21,169,593	6.11249
1871	3,653,841	24,093,184	6.59393
1872	2,514,535	17,955,684	7.14076
1873	2,562,086	19,381,664	7.56480
1874	4,094,094	29,258,094	7.14641
Totals	39,713,318	291,470,987	.....
Annual average	3,054,871	22,420,845	7.33938

Here again the quantity is larger, the aggregate value greater, and the price higher under protection than under partial free-trade.

Does this show—

Inquires Mr. Mason—

that the protective policy is detrimental to the prosperity of Western farmers? If the 39,713,318 barrels of flour exported in the protective period had been sent abroad at the same average price received for the 36,745,003 barrels exported in the period of partial free trade, then the total export value would have amounted to only $241,196,454, instead of $291,470,987, the sum actually realized, making a difference, which would have been a loss, of $50,274,533. Is that value of more than $50,000,000, which represents a positive gain, to be regarded as part of the baneful effects produced upon our agriculture by the series of tariffs since 1861? Are better prices and larger sales usually looked upon as very serious evils and as oppressive to the grain-grower? We put these questions to the common sense of the reader.

Exports of Indian Corn.

THIRTEEN YEARS UNDER PARTIAL FREE TRADE.

Fiscal years.	Bushels.	Values.	Average price per bushel.
1849	13,257,309	$7,966,369	$0.60090
1850	6,595,092	3,892,193	.59016
1851	3,426,811	1,762,549	.51434
1852	2,627,075	1,540,225	.58629
1853	2,274,909	1,374,077	.60401
1854	7,768,816	6,074,277	.78188
1855	7,807,585	6,961,571	.89164
1856	10,292,280	7,622,565	.74061
1857	7,505,318	5,184,666	.69080
1858	4,766,145	3,259,039	.68379
1859	1,719,998	1,323,103	.76925
1860	3,314,155	2,399,808	.72411
1861	10,678,244	6,890,865	.64532
Totals	82,033,737	56,251,307	.....
Annual average	6,310,287	4,327,024	.68571

THIRTEEN YEARS UNDER THE POLICY OF PROTECTION.

Fiscal years.	Bushels.	Values.	Average price per bushel.
1862	18,904,898	$10,387,383	$0.54945
1863	16,119,476	10,592,704	.65714
1864	4,096,684	3,353,280	.81853
1865	2,812,726	3,679,133	1.30803
1866	13,516,651	11,070,395	.81902
1867	14,889,823	14,871,092	.99874
1868	11,147,490	13,094,036	1.17462
1869	7,047,197	6,820,719	.96786
1870	1,392,115	1,287,575	.92490
1871	9,826,309	7,458,997	.75908
1872	34,491,650	23,984,365	.69537
1873	38,541,930	23,794,694	.61737
1874	34,434,606	24,769,951	.71933
Totals	207,221,555	155,164,324	.....
Annual average	15,940,120	11,935,717	.74878

These figures establish a number of significant facts all strongly in favor of the protective policy. Here we find during the thirteen years under that system an export of over 207,000,000 bushels of Indian corn against an export of only 82,000,000 bushels during the thirteen years of partial free trade, and an increase under protection in the price of over six cents per bushel—that is, an increase of 150 per cent. in the quantity and 10 per cent. in the price—thus augmenting the value of the export under protection over $13,000,000, or $1,000,000 each year in favor of the protective policy. This does not look like injuring the farmer or diminishing the rewards of his labor.

Exports of Potatoes.

THIRTEEN YEARS UNDER PARTIAL FREE TRADE.

Fiscal years.	Bushels exported.	Values.	Average price per bushel.
1849	109,665	$83,313	$0.75970
1850	155,595	99,333	.63841
1851	106,342	79,314	.74584
1852	148,916	115,121	.77306
1853	225,905	152,569	.67537
1854	140,575	121,680	.86559
1855	225,013	203,416	.90402
1856	226,908	153,061	.67437
1857	238,722	205,616	.86132
1858	242,231	205,791	.84956
1859	376,056	284,111	.75550
1860	380,372	284,673	.74341
1861	413,091	285,508	.69115
Totals	2,989,391	2,273,506	.76053

THIRTEEN YEARS UNDER PROTECTION.

Fiscal years.	Bushels exported.	Values.	Average price per bushel.
1862	417,138	$300,599	$0.72062
1863	517,530	413,581	.79914
1864	463,212	473,911	1.02310
1865	510,344	724,593	1.41981
1866	470,753	535,446	1.13742
1867	512,380	505,875	.98730
1868	378,605	483,395	1.27678
1869	508,249	451,435	.88822
1870	596,968	412,488	.69097
1871	553,070	432,815	.78257
1872	621,537	482,648	.77654
1873	515,306	498,291	.96698
1874	497,413	471,332	.94757
Totals	6,562,505	6,186,409	.94269

Here we find results similar to those in reference to the export of corn. During the protective period the aggregate export of potatoes increased 119 per cent. in quantity, 24 per cent. in the average price per bushel, and 136 per cent. in aggregate value over the free-trade period.

With these facts before them it will be difficult to find any considerable number of

farmers who prefer free trade to a well-adjusted protective tariff like that now in successful operation under the Republican party.

It has been the cry of the advocates of a free-trade policy that protection diminished the aggregate of our exports. But instead of this the official returns demonstrate the fact that the export of agricultural products has doubled under the protective tariff. Hon. Horace Capron, late United States Commissioner of Agriculture, shows in his carefully prepared reports that our total wheat exports, together with flour reduced to wheat, for forty years prior to the date of his reports, were 670,000,000 bushels. By adopting the same process of reducing the flour to bushels of wheat, and adding the product to the number of bushels of wheat exported during the last thirteen years of protection, it will be found that the total export of that article falls but little short of the total export of the forty years indicated in Mr. Capron's reports. The export of the year 1874 alone amounts to about one-seventh of that of the forty years indicated. These results all tend directly to one conclusion, namely, that our agricultural products are larger and the prices are better under the protective policy than they are under partial free trade. The reasons for this are obvious. The farmer is better paid for the products of his labor; he is enabled to expend larger amounts in the purchase of improved implements and in paying for hired help; he cultivates a broader surface, and as direct result has a larger surplus product to send to foreign markets.

OTHER RESULTS OF A PROTECTIVE TARIFF IN ITS RELATION TO AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

But while our aggregate agricultural product and the quantities of the same exported have largely increased under the Republican policy of protection, another and probably the greatest of all the advantages of this policy to the agricultural interests is the fact that it has double the aggregate of our manufacturing industries and secured to the farmers larger and more profitable markets at home. Manufacturing establishments, instead of being confined mainly to the New England and Middle States, are now spread over all the States. The shuttle and the plow speed their way side by side. The woolen mill and the cotton factory attract population; a community, then a village, and very soon a town springs up and a market is created for the agricultural products of the neighborhood. These mills and factories multiply through the Southern and Western States, and the home market for the surplus products of the soil spreads and increases with the increase and development of manufacturing industry, each becoming a direct benefit to the other and their interests becoming mutual and inseparable. These home markets are always reliable and permanent, while the foreign market is variable and uncertain, depending upon the abundance or deficiency of the European crops. The home markets are also superior to the foreign in the fact that they obviate the necessity of three thousand miles of transportation. Again, the home market creates a demand for a greater variety of agricultural products than the foreign. Hay, on account of its bulky character, cannot be exported at a profit. Perishable vegetables and fruits cannot be sent abroad. But the home market, created by the introduction of manufacturing establishments, enlarges the demand for every variety of agricultural products. This in turn very soon doubles the money value of the farm itself, increases the wealth of the farmer, and guarantees to him permanent sales and remunerative prices for all the fruits of his industry.

These are some of the results of the protective policy. But there is another advantage not yet taken into the account, of having the products of the soil consumed near the place of production, and that is the greater opportunities thus afforded for obtaining a sufficient supply of fertilizers to sustain the productive powers of the soil. It is mainly upon the consumption of agricultural products that the farmer depends for manure. When his crops are sent abroad this element is lost. He cannot afford to ship back from Europe the fertilizing product of breadstuffs and provisions he has sent thither. This is lost and his farm suffers in consequence. Says a recent writer:

> To take from the soil and not wear it out the farmer must give back. Let this be done, and the crops increase with the growth of population; neglect this and when decay shall come is but a question of time; come it will inevitably.

Another writer truthfully remarks that:

> In New England, with a poor soil, crops increase; in the West, with a rich virgin soil, they decrease in the average per acre. In New England factory and farm are near each other, making a home market for the farmer's produce and enabling him to procure manure to enrich his soil. In the West the produce being carried off, the soil loses thousands of tons of its most precious constituents for crops and receives no equivalent. Put the factory beside the farm and this drain is stopped.

These are self-evident truths, and are practically evident to every intelligent farmer.

Now, the Morrison tariff, based on the Democratic free-trade policy, deprives the present Republican tariff of its protective feature. Should it be adopted, the practical effect would be to stop the increase of factories throughout the country and close

many, if not all, of those now in existence, and transfer the manufacture of our goods for home consumption to England, Germany, and France, whither our gold and silver would be shipped to pay for our foreign purchases, while our own manufacturers would turn their hundreds of thousands of employés out of doors and our farmers would be left without markets for their surplus products. Verily the road to ruin is easy, and the Democratic policy is to compel our people to walk therein.

EFFECTS OF THE TARIFF UPON PRICES DURING A PERIOD OF HALF A CENTURY.

In order more completely to disarm the advocates of free trade of the claim that a protective tariff cheapens agricultural products and enhances the cost of other commodities required by farmers, the following table is presented for examination. In it will be found the wholesale prices in the New York markets on the 1st day of January in each year from 1825 to 1876, inclusive. The articles enumerated are chiefly staple agricultural products, to which are added coal, iron, lead, and leather. To demonstrate the effects of a protective tariff in sustaining the prices of agricultural products and decreasing the cost of manufactured goods, it is not necessary here to go over the figures of each year in detail. The prices, as indicated in the table, are reliable, and the last two columns show the percentage of duties paid each year.

From 1816 till 1824 the duties were low, and they were imposed mainly on coarse and unmanufactured products. The tariff during this period was in no way protective, and the country went through an experience of extreme prostration and distress. The tariff of 1824 was slightly protective, and its beneficial effects were so clearly demonstrated, that in 1828 the duties were increased so as to afford effective protection to home industries. By the act of July 4, 1832, the tariff was again modified, and in March following the compromise act was passed, under which the duties were further reduced, and linens, stuff goods, silks, and many other articles were admitted free of duty and one-tenth of the excess over 20 per cent reduced from all other commodities, to take effect December, 1833, with a further similar reduction every two years until 1841, when one-half of the remaining surplus was to be removed, and the other half in 1842, when no duty would exceed 20 per cent.

The protective tariff of 1842 was followed by the free-trade tariff of 1846. This was continued with unimportant changes through a series of years, and resulted in an experience of extreme prostration from which the country never fully recovered until a protective tariff was established under Republican legislation. Then the industries revived, and though checked for a time in consequence of a protracted war, prosperity continued until undue speculation, an over-strained credit system and over-production compelled a halt until the law of supply and demand could again regulate itself. For this the protective policy was in no way responsible.

Keeping these historical facts in view, an examination of the following statement of prices will show the relation of the tariff to the manufacturing industries, and especially to the agricultural interests of the country. Short or excessive crops intervene sometimes to affect prices; but the steady increase of prices of agricultural products during protective periods is notably apparent from 1825 down to the present time. Compare, for example, the prices in 1826 with those of 1872, years of average prosperity, and the result will at once become apparent. It will be seen that agricultural products have, in nearly every instance, increased largely in price, while coal, iron, lead, &c., have decreased in value, in some cases—that of iron for example—nearly 50 per cent. Similar results are shown by a full analysis of the the table here presented.

This table, together with the preceding ones, affords the most conclusive evidence that the farmers have nothing to lose but everything to gain by the Republican policy of protection, which the Democratic party is striving to destroy by a reduction of the tariff and the removal of its protective features. This scheme is a direct attack upon our industries, manufacturing, agricultural, and commercial. They are mutually related one to the other, and so inseparably connected that a blow struck at either will affect the others. The policy of protection is to do equal justice to each and every branch of industry in every section of the country, and past experience has demonstrated the fact of signal success. No legitimate enterprise has in a single instance suffered in consequence of the adoption of the protective policy. On the other hand all our industries have been benefited. There is not an individual of intelligence who attributes the recent crisis in business to the protective tariff. It was the result of other well-known causes. Had it not been for the tariff the depression would have followed immediately upon the close of the war. But the country continued to enjoy an unusual degree of prosperity until reckless speculation and extravagance disarranged legitimate industrial pursuits and paralyzed trade.

Sta ement of Wholesale Prices of Provisions and other Staple Goods in the New York Market on the 1st day of January in each Year from 1825 to 1876, inclusive.

(The quotations are for first qualities of goods excepting cotton middlings.)

Year.	Wheat, per bushel.	Flour, per barrel.	Corn, per bushel.	Corn meal, per barrel.	Coal, per chaldron.	Cotton, middling, per pound.	Iron, pig, per ton.	Lead, pig, per hundred pounds.	Leather, sole, per lb.	Molasses, New Orleans, per gallon.	Molass s, for'n, per gal.	Pork, mess, per barrel.	Beef, mess, per barrel.	Hams, smoked, per lb.	Lard, per pound.	Butter, per pound.	Cheese, per pound.	Rice, per hundred lbs.	Salt, per bushel.	Sugar, N. O., per pound.	Sugar, foreign, per lb.	Wool, per pound.	Percentage of customs on dutiable imports for consumption.	Percentage of customs on total imports.
									c.		c.			c.	c.	c.	c.		c	c.	c.	c.		
1825	$1 00	$5 12	$0 42	$2 50	$9 00	$0 13	$35 00	$7 50	22	$0 30	24	$13 25	$7 75	8	9	8	5	$3 00	48	8	8	30	31.03	28.86
1826	85	5 12	73	3 75	12 00	13	60 00	7 00	21	33	26	11 50	8 00	9	7	15	6	2 00	50	8	9	30	44.04	27.47
1827	1 00	5 37	67	3 50	12 00	9	50 00	6 00	18	33	27	11 75	8 75	10	9	15	6	3 50	50	7	8	20	37.90	24.80
1828	1 04	5 37	56	3 00	11 00	8	50 00	6 00	18	34	30	14 00	8 50	9	8	14	6	3 00	53	7	9	20	41.14	28.31
1829	1 75	8 00	58	3 25	11 00	9	50 00	5 00	18	31	25	12 00	8 75	9	5	13	4	3 50	47	7	8	18	44.23	30.45
1830	1 03	4 87	52	2 75	12 00	9	40 00	3 00	18	28	20	11 00	8 00	9	5	12	5	2 50	45	7	7	18	47.46	30.93
1831	1 25	5 75	54	3 25	7 00	9	40 00	3 00	19	33	25	13 50	8 50	10	8	12	5	2 50	42	5	6	20	30.93	23.47
1832	1 25	6 37	75	3 50	10 00	7	40 00	5 00	20	26	26	13 00	9 00	9	9	15	5	3 25	45	5	5	25	41.66	28.17
1833	1 28	6 00	75	3 75	8 50	10	40 00	6 00	17	32	25	12 50	8 50	9	8	14	6	3 25	45	7	6	30	45.21	19.30
1834	1 05	5 37	55	3 62	5 50	10	33 00	5 00	16	30	25	14 00	8 50	9	9	13	7	2 25	38	7	7	30	25.63	14.99
1835	1 04	5 00	73	3 62	5 50	15	38 00	5 00	15	27	21	13 50	8 75	8	7	14	6	3 00	32	6	7	25	41.00	15.33
1836	1 37	7 25	90	4 75	7 00	14	38 00	6 00	14	32	28	18 00	9 50	9	11	22	7	3 00	34	9	8	35	26.39	12.32
1837	1 55	10 00	1 00	4 75	10 00	15	60 00	7 00	18	42	40	23 00	12 00	13	13	20	8	3 50	40	7	6	40	17.92	7.92
1838	1 85	8 62	85	4 50	8 50	11	50 00	.....	16	40	35	21 50	14 00	10	10	18	7	3 50	35	6	6	28	27.67	14.21
1839	1 37	8 75	90	3 87	7 50	14	37 50	.....	23	32	26	23 00	15 75	14	13	22	8	4 00	35	6	7	37	28.69	14.27
1840	1 00	5 87	57	3 87	6 50	9	37 50	.....	17	26	22	14 00	12 00	..	7	18	8	2 75	32	5	5	30	30.58	12.60
1841	1 00	4 94	50	2 87	7 00	9	35 00	.....	22	27	20	13 00	9 75	..	8	9	6	3 18	30	5	5	25	25.11	11.32
1842	1 25	6 00	66	3 00	8 00	8	34 00	4 00	18	25	16	9 00	7 50	..	5	10	6	2 75	..	5	4	18	28.13	18.15
1843	87	4 69	57	2 56	5 00	7	27 00	.....	16	19	16	8 25	6 00	..	6	9	5	2 50	28	3	4	18	27.39	10.88
1844	1 00	4 62	43	2 56	5 00	8	31 00	.....	16	29	21	10 00	6 12	..	5	8	4	2 25	..	6	6	25	32.88	24.14
1845	1 00	4 68	56	2 50	5 00	5	30 00	3 00	14	24	25	9 25	5 50	5	6	9	5	2 87	24	3	5	28	30.61	23.48
1846	1 27	5 87	73	4 00	5 00	6	38 00	4 75	13	23	20	13 25	8 00	10	5	14	6	4 25	28	5	6	26	29.22	21.95
1847	1 00	5 50	78	3 87	6 00	10	33 00	4 37	11	34	15	10 25	8 25	6	6	13	6	3 25	25	6	6	22	23.64	17.57
1848	1 20	6 37	76	3 25	5 50	7	35 00	4 25	14	28	23	11 00	8 25	9	6	14	6	3 00	26	4	4	28	25.26	20.48
1849	1 20	5 87	70	2 93	7 00	6	25 00	4 25	13	28	18	14 12	10 25	9	7	15	6	2 87	21	4	4	25	23.93	19.19
1850	1 24	5 37	60	2 93	5 50	11	23 00	4 25	15	26	21	11 75	8 50	10	6	15	5	2 25	23	4	4	30	26.79	22.27
1851	1 18	5 06	64	2 93	6 50	13	22 00	4 80	14	29	22	12 12	8 75	8	7	16	5	3 00	22	5	4	33	27.85	22.67
1852	1 03	5 00	70	3 00	5 00	8	19 50	4 42	12	27	18	14 62	8 25	..	9	15	6	2 75	20	4	4	30	27.99	22.73
1853	1 30	5 75	68	3 81	5 00	9	30 00	6 00	17	29	20	19 50	9 50	..	12	20	8	3 75	27	4	4	38	26.14	21.99
1854	2 00	7 87	82	3 75	6 50	10	37 50	6 00	23	27	23	13 37	8 50	..	10	15	8	4 12	45	4	4	38	25.53	21.20
1855	2 35	9 12	1 00	4 25	7 00	7	27 50	6 25	19	24	22	12 62	8 25	..	10	20	10	2 50	50	4	4	24	26.28	20.28
1856	2 12	8 25	92	4 12	5 90	9	32 00	7 00	24	48	42	17 25	10 50	..	12	23	9	4 25	27	8	7	30	26.02	20.35
1857	1 70	6 10	73	3 25	6 50	13	30 00	6 75	31	80	38	19 37	10 50	..	12	20	9	3 27	22	9	8	33	22.63	17.69
1858	1 35	4 20	58	3 20	5 00	9	26 00	5 00	22	34	18	15 50	9 00	..	8	14	6	2 75	16	5	5	27	22.30	14.79
1859	1 35	4 20	76	3 40	5 25	11	25 00	5 55	25	36	19	17 25	7 75	..	11	16	8	3 00	17	6	5	36	19.83	14.63
1860	1 40	5 25	88	3 75	5 50	11	24 00	5 70	21	53	23	16 12	5 00	..	10	15	9	3 50	19	7	6	38	19.85	14.63
1861	1 40	5 20	72	3 10	5 50	12	20 00	5 25	20	32	15	16 00	5 75	..	10	14	9	3 25	17	4	4	30	19.10	12.08
1862	1 34	5 40	66	3 00	4 25	36	21 00	7 00	20	50	20	12 00	5 00	..	8	13	5	7 37	20	8	6	47	38.18	23.83
1863	1 58	5 85	70	3 90	8 50	66	23 00	8 00	29	50	24	14 00	7 00	..	9	18	10	3 75	30	8	8	62	37.26	27.27
1864	1 53	8 00	1 27	5 30	8 75	81	42 00	10 50	31	50	38	19 75	5 80	..	12	27	12	8 50	47	..	13	80	38.91	31.05
1865	2 55	10 75	1 86	7 75	9 50	1 20	38 00	14 75	38	1 35	53	36 00	20 00	..	20	46	15	12 00	70	..	24	95	54.39	36.23
1866	2 30	8 25	90	4 25	13 00	51	50 00	9 75	35	1 00	35	27 75	11 00	..	15	44	17	12 00	45	..	11	70	49.86	40.91
1867	3 05	11 40	1 15	5 00	8 00	35	49 00	6 75	32	65	40	20 00	12 00	..	12	38	14	9 00	55	..	9	50	49.48	42.22
1868	2 80	10 75	1 38	6 15	6 50	15	38 00	6 45	27	70	37	20 90	12 00	..	12	40	11	8 50	48	..	11	55	49.78	44.25
1869	2 00	7 00	1 06	4 25	9 00	26	40 00	6 50	28	60	35	26 50	9 00	..	16	43	15	8 00	48	..	14	60	46.72	41.18
1870	1 35	5 60	1 09	4 75	7 50	26	38 00	6 25	30	70	30	29 50	8 00	..	16	39	15	6 75	43	..	10	55	48.58	42.07
1871	1 47	6 25	76	4 00	6 50	15	31 00	6 30	29	65	20	20 00	10 00	..	12	25	10	6 75	45	..	9	53	43.88	38.09
1872	1 68	8 25	76	3 65	4 50	21	36 00	5 90	28	48	23	14 00	8 00	..	9	25	9	8 25	45	..	9	60	38.11	33.79
1873	1 85	9 50	60	3 28	5 00	21	45 00	6 50	28	60	32	14 75	11 00	..	8	25	14	7 50	35	..	8	65	38.92	28.34
1874	1 65	6 80	78	4 00	5 25	18	35 00	6 87	27	71	40	14 50	10 00	..	8	24	10	7 50	30	..	8	55	40.53	27.36
1875	1 17	5 25	93	4 60	6 00	15	26 00	6 15	28	.....	37	20 00	12 00	11	14	40	15	8 00	28	..	8	50	41.96	28.37
1876	1 26	5 40	74	3 65	6 50	14	23 00	6 00	27	.....	..	21 00	12 50	13	13	36	14	7 00	30	..	..	52	.....	.....